

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1204

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Joseph M. Dawson for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those estimable citizens who have performed their duties with the utmost probity and whose efforts throughout their years of industry were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Joseph M. Dawson is one such distinguished professional who has served with honor and distinction as Administrator of Blount Memorial Hospital since 1985; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dawson will be taking a much deserved retirement from this important post this year, leaving behind an incomparable record of service to the good people of Blount County; and

WHEREAS, a native of Maryville, Joe Dawson was educated at Maryville College and received his Master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the Medical College of Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dawson served with courage and gallantry as a member of the United States Army Medical Corps from 1970 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, he began his career as Assistant Executive Director at St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, in 1973, and in 1977, he returned home to Tennessee to become Assistant Administrator at Blount Memorial Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Joe Dawson was promoted to Administrator of Blount Memorial Hospital in 1985, and through his leadership the hospital greatly expanded its range of services; the facility grew accordingly, allowing the hospital to offer more to a larger patient population; and

WHEREAS, Blount Memorial Hospital has been involved in several critical community issues, including environmental health, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, and mental health, and has truly become an integral component of the local community; and

WHEREAS, Joe Dawson is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including serving as a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives; board member of the American Hospital Association; and board member and past chairman of the Tennessee Hospital Association; and

WHEREAS, he has also served on the Tennessee State Advisory Committee on Open Government, and is the former chairman of the TennCare Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dawson also contributes his time and numerous talents as a board member of First Tennessee Bank, Blount County Industrial Development Board, East Tennessee Economic Development Agency, East Tennessee Foundation, Maryville Surgical Center, and Tennessee Endoscopy Center; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding civic leader is a member of the City of Maryville Public Building Authority and is a former board member of United Way of Blount County and Blount County Chamber of Commerce, former board member of Maryville College, and has served as a football official with the Southeastern Conference since 1990; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Joe Dawson was honored as the recipient of the American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award in 2006; the Tennessee Hospital Association's President's Award in 2002; Alumni Citation of Maryville College in 1999; Executive of the Year, Volunteer Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America in 1995; Distinguished Service Award, American College of Healthcare Executives in 1994; Distinguished Service Award by the Tennessee Hospital Association in 1992; Meritorious Service Award, Tennessee Hospital Association in 1991, along with a number of other awards too numerous to mention; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Joe Dawson is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife, Sue, and their two children and their spouses, David Dawson and Jennifer Ferrin Dawson, and Caroline Dawson Smith and Tripp Smith; he is also the proud grandfather of Savannah and Owen Dawson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dawson exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as Administrator of Blount Memorial Hospital, Joe Dawson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, staff, and patients alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and thank Joseph M. Dawson for his many years of meritorious service as Administrator of Blount Memorial Hospital, commend his laudable service to the good people of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.